BIOGRAPHY

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

SPECIAL GUIDES No. 3

# MEMORIALS OF LINNÆUS

A COLLECTION OF PORTRAITS MANUSCRIPTS SPECIMENS AND BOOKS EXHIBITED TO COMMEMORATE THE BICENTENARY OF HIS BIRTH

LONDON
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES
OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM
1907
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CARL LINNÆUS

*From the original by P. Krafft*

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LINNAEUS, Carolus [1707-78]

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# PREFACE

THIS Guide has been drawn up to accompany a collection of portraits, autographs, manuscripts, specimens and books, which has been arranged by order of the Trustees in commemoration of the bicentenary of the birth of Linnæus. These memorials of Linnæus are exhibited in three cases in the second botanical bay on the east side of the Great Hall. The fine series of autograph letters and manuscripts is from the Department of Manuscripts, and has been prepared for exhibition by the Keeper, Dr. G. F. Warner. The large portrait of Linnæus in Lapland costume and the portrait of Dr. Solander are from the Department of Prints and Drawings. For the loan of the specimens and books from Linnæus's own collection we are indebted to the courtesy of the President and Council of the Linnean Society; without this help the exhibition would have been far less interesting. To Dr. William Carruthers, formerly Keeper of the Department of Botany, we owe the fine series of portraits of Linnæus. The remaining exhibits are from the Department of Botany, which contains several early collections associated with Linnæus.

A. B. RENDLE.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
*July*, 1907.

# MEMORIALS OF LINNÆUS

CARL LINNÆUS was born at Rashult, a small village in Smoland, Sweden, May 23, 1707. His father was rector of a neighbouring parish. From his boyhood Linnæus showed a love for plants, but his literary studies made little progress. In 1727 he entered the University of Lund, for the study of medicine, but removed the next year to Upsala, where, in 1730, he was put in charge of the botanic garden as assistant to Professor Rudbeck. In 1732 he made a tour through Lapland. In 1735 he went to Holland and obtained his doctor's degree, and made the acquaintance of George Clifford, a wealthy banker, who engaged Linnæus to study and superintend the large collection in his garden at Hartecamp. The *Hortus Cliffortianus* (exhibited in the third case), an account of the plants in Clifford's collection, appeared in 1737. In Holland were published the *Systema Naturæ* (1735) and other works, including the *Genera Plantarum* (1737) and the *Classes Plantarum* (1738).

Linnæus came to England in 1736, bringing a letter of introduction (which is exhibited) from Boerhaave, Professor of Botany at Leyden, to Sir Hans Sloane. He visited the Chelsea Botanic Garden, then under the charge of Philip Miller, and the Oxford Botanic Garden, where he spent some time with Dillenius, the Professor of Botany.

In 1738 he returned to Stockholm, and practised medicine till, in 1741, he became Professor at Upsala, where he spent the remainder of his life. In 1753 he published the *Species Plantarum*, from which dates the binominal system of plant nomenclature; a volume is exhibited in the second case. Linnæus died in 1778.

On the right and left of the bay are two portraits of

Linnæus. That on the right is a mezzotint reproduction of a replica, painted in 1739, of the portrait of Linnæus in Lapland costume (see below). The engraving differs in several points from the original portrait. The replica came into the possession of Dr. Robert Thornton towards the end of the eighteenth century; the reproduction was used for a plate in his book entitled *A New Illustration of the Sexual System of Carolus von Linnæus*, published in 1807. The right hand holds a specimen of *Linnæa*, and the left an oval object, which is apparently a press for drying plants; gloves, drinking-horn and various other implements hang from an ornamented leather girdle. On a column behind are placed eight volumes of Linnæus's works.

The portrait on the left is a reproduction from the painting by Per Krafft, 1774, now at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm.

## *FIRST CASE*

### SERIES OF PORTRAITS OF LINNÆUS

(Presented by Dr. William Carruthers, F.R.S.)

1 In lapland dress, 1737. A photograph of the original painting by Martinus Hoffman, at Hartecamp, near Haarlem, for George Clifford (see *Hortus Cliffortianus* in second case), and now in the possession of Mr. Clifford of Nieuwersluys, Holland.

2 As a bridegroom, 1739. A photograph of the original painting by the Swedish portrait painter J. H. Scheffel, in Linnæus's house at Hammarby, near Upsala. Linnæus was married in June, 1739, to Sarah Elizabeth Moræus.

3 From the engraving by Augustus Ehrensverd, 1740. The photograph is reversed. One hand rests on a volume labelled on the back "Syst. Nat.," the other holds a sprig of *Linnæa*. On the left shoulder is an academic gown which comes in folds below the right arm.

4 In every-day dress, 1747. From the lithograph of a sketch by J. E. Rehn.

LINNÆUS IN LAPLAND DRESS

*From the original by M. Hoffman*

5 PROFILE, 1747. From a lithograph which is said to be the facsimile of a drawing from nature by J. E. Rehn, the original of which is unknown.

6 IN COURT DRESS, 1752. A photograph of the original pastel by Gustaf Lundberg, painter to the Swedish Court; the original is now in the possession of Mr. Olof Wijk, Gothenburg.

7 A PHOTOGRAPH of the original painting by J. H. Scheffel, 1755, in Linnæus's house at Hammarby. The right hand holds a sprig of *Linnæa*; the Cross of the Polar Star is attached to the coat.

8 A PHOTOGRAPH of the medallion by Carl Fridr. Inlander, 1773. The original medallion is in Linnæus's house at Hammarby, but Inlander produced two replicas, one of which was presented to the Linnean Society by Sir Joseph Banks in 1790. It shows the *Linnæa* and the Cross of the Polar Star.

9 A PHOTOGRAPH of the original painting by Per Krafft, 1774, for the College of Physicians in Stockholm, now at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm. The left hand holds the *Linnæa* and partly covers the Cross of the Polar Star.

10 A PHOTOGRAPH of the original painting by Alexander Roslin, 1775, at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm.

## AUTOGRAPH LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPT

1 AUTOGRAPH in the album of — Schütze, dated Upsala, October 9, 1751. The quotation "Famam extollere factis" (Virgil, Aen. x. 468) was the keynote of his life, and occurs again at the end of the list of his works and also on the fly-leaf of his autobiography, both here exhibited. A similar phrase occurs in the autograph epitaph exhibited.

2 AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 1707–1750. The page exhibited records his birth at one o'clock between May 12 and 13, 1707, his name Carl, his parents Nils Linnæus and Christina Brodersonia. On f. 18 is a list of his works, corresponding with that here exhibited, followed by brief notes of their contents, etc. *Swedish. Autograph.*



(2) on the fly leaf is his favorite quotation
famam extollere factis Virgil Aen X 468

3 Autobiographical Memoranda, 1707–1768. On the loose leaf is the draft of a Latin epitaph, in which he says of himself "fidissimus doctor, acutissimus observator, indefessus scriptor, clarissimus auctor, famam extendebat factis, Naturæ Regnorum reformator, Botanicorum Princeps dictus, sibi plura naturae miracula visa gloriabatur quam ullo alio mortalium." *Swedish. Autograph.*

4 List of Works, 1735–1774. Prefixed are the lines, "Haec non sola mihi patefecit opinio famae | vulgaris, quaesita Libris, nec Lectio priscis | sed Labor et studium, quibus otia longa dierum | postposui," and appended is his favourite quotation. Several of these works are shown in the second case, including the first on the list, a dissertation on the Cause of Intermittent Fevers submitted for his degree of M.D. at the University of Harderwyk, 1735. *Autograph.*

5 "Correspondentes exteri." An alphabetical list of his foreign correspondents, among them Sir Hans Sloane, J. J. Dillenius, Professor of Botany at Oxford, and other English men of science. *Autograph.*

6 Letter from Herman Boerhaave, Professor of Botany at Leyden, to Sir Hans Sloane, introducing Linnæus, beginning "Linnæus has Tibi tradit, unice dignus Te videre, dignus a Te videri : qui vos simul videt, cernet hominum par, cui aliud simile orbis vix dabit"; Leyden, 17 $\frac{18}{7}$ 36 (18 July, 1736). *Latin. Autograph.*

7 Letter from Linnæus to Sir Hans Sloane, thanking him for the use of his museum, "quod Tuum incomparabile Museum mihi, quoties accessi, aperire numquam deliberasti," and transmitting a small work of his own; Amsterdam, 21 Jan., 1737. *Latin. Autograph.*

Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753), a wealthy physician and patron of science, whose large library and collections passed at his death to the nation, and with the Harleian collection of Manuscripts and the Cottonian Library were the foundation of the British Museum.

8 Letter from Linnæus to his pupil Daniel Charles Solander (1736–1782), lately arrived in England, afterwards

Keeper of the Natural History Department at the British Museum. (*See* portrait in third case.) The latter part of the letter relates to various flowers, *Belladonna*, *Gardenia*, etc. ; Upsala, 1 Jan., 1762. *Swedish. Autograph.*

9 Letter from Linnæus to Emanuel Mendes da Costa, F.R.S., the well-known conchologist, acknowledging the receipt of his book [*A Natural History of Fossils.* Vol. I., part I., 1757] ; Upsala, 27 Feb., 1759. *Latin. Autograph.*

10 Letter from Linnæus to Philip Miller (1691–1771), gardener of the Physick Garden of the Apothecaries' Society at Chelsea (1722–1770), concerning the *Œstrum lapponum*, an insect which attacks the reindeer in Lapland ; 10 Nov., 1737. *Latin. Autograph.*

Miller's herbarium, illustrating his *Gardeners Dictionary*, was purchased by Sir Joseph Banks in 1774 and is now in the Department of Botany.

11 Letter from Linnæus to Antoine Gouan, Professor of Botany at Montpellier, describing the flowers he sees from his window, etc. ; Upsala, 1 Sept., 1765. *Latin. Autograph.*

12 Letter from Linnæus to Gouan, concerning various plants ; *circ.* 1765 ? *Latin. Autograph.*

13 "Caroli Linnaei Pan Suecicus." Tables of plants accepted or rejected as food by different classes of animals ; by Nicholas L. Hesselgren, with additions by Linnæus. *Autograph.* The letters at the heads of the columns stand for *boves*, *caprae*, *oves*, *equi*, *sues*.

14 Descriptions of some Animals and Plants. *Latin. Autograph.*

15 Three Academic Dissertations by various authors with notes in Linnæus's hand ; lent by the Linnean Society from the Library of Linnæus :—

The Guinea-pig (*Mus indicus*), Upsala, 1754 ; Linnæus has altered the name to *Mus Porcellus*, as it appears in the reprint in his *Amoenitates Academicae* (also shown) : The Migrations of Birds, Upsala, 1756 : Floral Calendar, Upsala, 1756.

## THE LINNEAN COLLECTIONS

Linnæus acquired by his own collecting, and by correspondence with other collectors and scientific men, a large number of plants, insects, shells, minerals, &c., for which he built, in 1769, a Museum at his country place at Hammarby. The value of the specimens is much enhanced by the numerous works on systematic botany and zoology which he published, and for which they were to some extent the basis. After his death in 1778 they became the property of his son, who made considerable additions, especially to the herbarium. He died in 1783, and the collections were then offered to Sir Joseph Banks for the sum of one thousand guineas. Banks, who had already a very large herbarium, was not inclined to acquire them, but urged his friend James Edward Smith, a young medical man who was much interested in botany, to purchase them. With his father's assistance Smith became, in 1784, the possessor of the whole of Linnæus's library, museum and manuscripts, for the sum of nine hundred guineas. The transaction was hurried on from the fear of Linnæus's widow that, on the return of the King of Sweden from abroad, she might be compelled to dispose of them for less money to the University of Upsala. The ship on which they were carried to London had only just sailed when the King returned ; a vessel was sent to intercept its voyage, and a courier was despatched by land to stop the ship at the Sound, but both were too late. Besides many valuable books, the collections contained 19,000 plants, more than 3,000 insects, 1,500 shells, 2,500 minerals, a large number of corals, 150 fishes, and a few birds.

In 1788, Dr. (afterwards Sir) James Edward Smith founded the Linnean Society, which for some years met at his house in London. At his death, in 1828, much surprise was felt that the Linnean collections were not bequeathed to the Society but were offered to it for £5,000. They were bought for 3,000 guineas, and have since been in the keeping of the Society. A full account of their history will be found in the *Proceedings* of the Society, 1887–88.

## PLANTS FROM LINNÆUS'S HERBARIUM

Species of *Carduus* (Thistle) illustrating Linnæus's method of conserving plants, which he thus describes. "Each species I have glued with isinglass on half a sheet of paper, and all the half-sheets that belong to one genus I have put up in a whole sheet of paper, and on the whole sheet I have written the name of the Genus [*Carduus*], and on the half-sheet the name of the Species [*lanceolatus*, *nutans*, &c.]. All these whole sheets, or Genera, I have arranged according to the Orders and Classes." (Extract from Diary.)

The number written before the specific name is the number of the species in Linnæus's *Species Plantarum* (1753), a systematic account of all the species of plants then known, according to which the herbarium is arranged. The letters H U on the last specimen, just beneath the stem, stand for Hortus Upsaliensis, and indicate that the plant was grown in the Upsala Botanic Garden. The pencil notes on the two middle sheets are by Sir James Edward Smith.

## *SECOND CASE*

1 FISHES FROM LINNÆUS'S COLLECTION. These consist of skins pasted upon paper. The specimens shown are Eel, Loach, Trout, Crucian Carp, Pike, Nase, Chub, Bream and Perch.

2 ARTIFICIAL PEARLS FROM LINNÆUS'S COLLECTION. Linnæus experimented on the formation of pearls artificially in a fresh-water mussel, *Unio margaritifer*, a specimen of which is shown, together with some of the pearls produced. Linnæus's method was to make a very small hole in the shell and insert a little round fragment of limestone fixed on the end of a fine silver wire; the fragment formed a nucleus which was slowly covered by lamellæ of calcareous matter deposited by the mollusc and thus formed the pearl. The pearls produced were examined by the Crown Jeweller and declared to be in every way as good as those formed naturally, and a "Secret Com-

mittee" of the State Council of Sweden recommended that a reward of 12,000 dollars silver money should be given to Linnæus. It does not appear that Linnæus received this money, but the date of the award, 1761, coincides with the year in which he was ennobled. Details of this episode will be found in Professor Herdman's interesting presidential address to the Linnean Society, May 24, 1905, published in the *Proceedings* of the Society, 1904–5.

3 LINNÆA BOREALIS. The original specimen collected by Linnæus at Lycksele in Lapland, May 29, 1732, and sent in 1735 to his friend Dr. Gronovius (1690–1762) of Leyden, with the suggestion that it should bear his name. Linnæus traced a fanciful analogy between his own early fate and this "little northern plant, long overlooked, depressed, abject, flowering early." A spray of the plant is generally introduced into his portraits. The specimen is from Gronovius's herbarium which was bought by Sir Joseph Banks in 1794,* and is now in the Department of Botany.

Soon after his arrival in Holland in 1735 Linnæus became acquainted with Gronovius, who assisted him in publishing the first edition of the *Systema Naturæ* (exhibited on the other side of the case).

4 SPECIMENS OF COLUMBINE (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) and MARSH MARIGOLD (*Caltha palustris*) from the herbarium of George Clifford containing the plants described in the *Hortus Cliffortianus* (1737). This is exhibited in the third case and contains an account of the plants, both living and dried, in Clifford's collection at Hartecamp. Linnæus was introduced to Clifford, a wealthy banker, whose garden at Hartecamp was one of the richest in the world, by Boerhaave, and was engaged to study and superintend the collection. Through Clifford's generosity

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* The Department of Botany of the British Museum, originally known as the Banksian Department, was established in 1827 for the reception of the herbarium of Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820), the famous traveller, collector and patron of botany. Banks bequeathed his herbarium to his curator Robert Brown, at whose death it was to pass to the British Museum; with Brown's consent it might be removed to the Museum during his lifetime. The removal took place, and Brown became the first Keeper of the new Department.

Linnæus was able to visit England in 1736. The herbarium was bought by Sir Joseph Banks in 1791 and passed with the other Banksian collections to the British Museum.

## WORKS OF LINNÆUS

1 SYSTEMA NATURÆ. Published at Leyden, 1735. One of the earliest works of Linnæus and a very rare book. It consists of eight large sheets in the form of tables, and is a systematic grouping of the three kingdoms of Nature,— Minerals, Plants, Animals. Linnæus's division of plants into twenty-four Classes, determined mainly by the number or some other obvious character of the stamens, is known as the Sexual System.

PLATE ILLUSTRATING THE SEXUAL SYSTEM, by Georg Dionysius Ehret (1708–1770), Leyden, 1736. The coloured drawing shown is the original of a plate illustrating the Classes of the Sexual System, which was published separately by Ehret and afterwards reproduced by Linnæus in the *Genera Plantarum* (1737). Ehret became acquainted with Linnæus at Clifford's house ; some of the plates in the *Hortus Cliffortianus* are from his drawings.

2 GENERA PLANTARUM. Published at Leyden, 1737. A definition and description of all the genera of plants then known. apud Conradum Wishoff

3 SPECIES PLANTARUM. Published at Stockholm, 1753. A definition and description of all the species of plants then known, and the starting-point of modern botanical nomenclature.

Perhaps the most important service rendered to science by Linnæus was the establishment of a binary system of nomenclature in which every species of plant and animal is designated by two words, e.g., *Rosa canina*—the first, *Rosa*, the name of the genus to which it belongs, and the second, *canina*, the specific or trivial name which distinguishes it from other species of the genus.

The volume is from Linnæus's library and contains notes in his hand.

4 FLORA LAPPONICA. Published at Amsterdam, 1737. Linnæus's first Flora, based on his collections in Lapland in 1732 and written while staying with George Clifford at Hartecamp. Sir James Smith in his account of Linnæus (in Rees's Cyclopædia) describes it as "one of the happiest literary compositions of its author . . . redundant in observation and reflection on every subject which could be interwoven with its professed object, conveyed in the most engaging style."

5 FAUNA SUECICA. Published at Leyden, 1746. A systematic account of the animals of Sweden. From Linnæus's own library with notes in his hand.

Soon after the publication of this work Linnæus received the title of Archiater from the King of Sweden.

6 ORBIS ERUDITI JUDICIUM DE CAROLI LINNÆI. Published at Stockholm, 1741. A defence of himself in reply to an attack by J. G. Wallerius entitled *Decades binae Thesium Medicarum* (Upsala, 1741) (also exhibited). Includes a list of the important events of his life and of his works, and testimonials from eminent men of science.

7 THE DISSERTATION (on the cause of intermittent fevers) submitted by Linnæus for his degree of M.D. which he obtained at the University of Harderwyck in Holland, June 23, 1735. Intermittent fevers are supposed to be owing to fine particles of clay, taken with the food, and lodged in the terminations of the arterial system, where they cause the symptoms of the disorder.

8 COPY OF THE RARE TRACT by Linnæus on Indigenous Plants capable of being utilized for Food. Published at Stockholm, 1757. This is probably the only copy in England. It is a continuation of a better known Thesis on the same subject published in 1752, and was written in consequence of a failure of crops. Linnæus indicates certain native plants which could be used for making bread and generally for food.

## *THIRD CASE*

1 PAUL HERMANN'S HERBARIUM OF CEYLON PLANTS. One of four volumes comprising a herbarium of Ceylon plants collected by Paul Hermann, Professor of Botany at Leyden, in 1670–1677; his *Museum Zeylanicum* (1717) is a catalogue of the herbarium. It was sent in 1745 by Augustus Gunther, an apothecary at Copenhagen, to Linnæus, who based upon it his *Flora Zeylanica*, published at Stockholm in 1747. The large writing is that of Hermann and corresponds with the descriptions in the *Museum Zeylanicum*, which is also exhibited. The small writing in ink is that of Linnæus, and corresponds with the citation in the *Flora Zeylanica* (also shown); his numbers are those of the plants in his book. The herbarium was bought in 1793 by Sir Joseph Banks from Professor Treschow of Copenhagen, and is now in the Department of Botany.

2 PORTRAIT OF DANIEL CHARLES SOLANDER (1736–82). A favourite pupil of Linnæus. He came to England in 1760 and became librarian to Banks, whom he accompanied on Cook's first voyage, 1768–71. In 1763 he became an Assistant in the British Museum, and in 1773 was appointed Keeper of the Natural History Department. The portrait is lent by the Print Department, British Museum.

3 PORTRAIT OF JONAS DRYANDER (1748–1810). Also a pupil of Linnæus; he succeeded Solander as librarian to Banks in 1782.

4 HORTUS CLIFFORTIANUS. Published at Amsterdam, 1737. The copy shown formerly belonged to Sir Joseph Banks.

At one end of the first case is shown a picture of a microscope presented by Linnæus to Bernard de Jussieu, August, 1738. After leaving Holland in 1738 Linnæus visited Paris, where he became acquainted with Bernard de Jussieu (1699–1776), Demonstrator of Botany at the Royal Garden, and one of the first botanists to work at a natural system of classification of plants. A Latin inscription pasted in the drawer at the base of the microscope states that de Jussieu received it as a perpetual reminder of the social intercourse which he had in August, 1738, with his most delightful comrade Carl Linné. The microscope is now in the Carnegie Museum at New York.

In the wall-case on the left of the bay are shown a number of reprints of Linnæus's works and several publications issued in commemoration of the bicentenary of his birth; also a bronze copy of the bicentenary medal presented to Sir Joseph Hooker, G.C.S.I., &c., by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, 25 May, 1907.

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No 2 cont'd

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Academia naturae curiosi 1750

Comm. pub. of the Royal Soc. of

Phys. Berlin Instituted 1727

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of Naturalists Berlin 1907

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